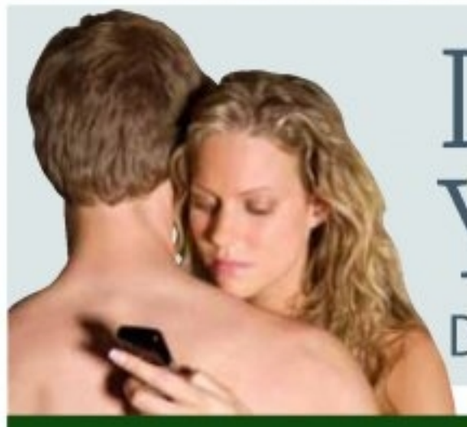

DATING: DON'T CELL YOURSELF SHORT

DROP THE DUMB SMARTPHONE AND LIVE IN THE NOW. PAGE 13

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Police warn of groper in the Back Bay

PAGE 02

Find out what Obamacare could cost you

PAGE 07

Get ready for a strip Von Teese

PAGE 16

DISARMING OUR CITIES

Mayors Against Illegal Guns. Since 2006, a coalition of mayors co-founded by Boston's Tom Menino has been fighting to keep illegal guns off city streets. **Internet enemies.** Online gun sellers are making it easier for illegal guns to infiltrate city limits. PAGES 08-09

Metro presents the fourth day in our weeklong examination of gun culture in Boston, New York and Philadelphia. / BILLY BECERRA, METRO

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NEWS

Top 3

What's trending online at Metro.us

1 'PHOTOS: FBI releases images of Aaron Alexis from Washington Navy Yard shooting'

2 'VIDEO: Jimmy Fallon and Justin Timberlake talk in hashtags'

3 'VIDEO: Cruz reads "Green Eggs and Ham" on Senate floor'

Today's tweet

"Earlier I walked by two men who were heatedly debating whether they needed a CEO for their drug selling operation. #southie #boston"

@fetalandweeping, on what should have been a closed door meeting

Thirsty thieves

Worth its weight in gold
NICOLAUS CZARNECKI, METRO

Cops: Men steal 200 water bottles

A group of apparently thirsty thieves were busted by Norton police this week for allegedly taking hundreds of bottles of water from a Poland Spring delivery center.

Jason Nordberg, 33, of Attleboro, and Aaron Fortes, 19, of Rehoboth, were arrested for trespassing when an officer spotted them entering the business, The Sun Chronicle reports.

An investigation led to police charging those two men, in addition to Brian Mallet, 26, and Christopher Monaco, 33, both of Mansfield, with larceny for stealing more than 200 bottles of water.

Police said Monaco is a former employee and has been charged with stealing bottles three times in the past three years. METRO

Casino gambling

Council OKs Eastie-only vote

The Boston City Council yesterday approved of holding an East Boston-only vote on whether to allow a casino development to go forward in the neighborhood. Some had called for a citywide vote. GLOBE

Man attacks, gropes women in Back Bay

Community alert. Boston police issued an advisory after the four attacks occurred late Tuesday and early yesterday.

Police are asking for the public's help locating a man who they believe is responsible for indecently assaulting four women as they walked through the Back Bay neighborhood late Tuesday and early yesterday.

Boston police issued a community alert yesterday afternoon about the attacks.

In the latest incident, which occurred just before 7 a.m. near 294 Commonwealth Ave., a woman was walking down the street when a man began to yell at her, and she replied, "I don't have any money."

That's when the man jumped up and indecently assaulted the woman. When she screamed, the man punched her in the head and then fled on foot toward Massachusetts Avenue.

About six hours earlier, a woman who was walking near 159 Newbury St. told police that a man came up behind her and indecently assaulted her.

The other two incidents occurred as the women were walking separately along Dartmouth Street at 10:13 p.m. and 10:24 p.m.

One woman said she could hear the man say something, but pretended not to listen. He then came up from behind her, indecently touched her and fled on foot.

The other woman said she was approaching Beacon Street when the man for the time and she answered him. He then walked up to and indecently assaulted her before fleeing the area on foot.

The incidents took place in the area of Dartmouth and Beacon streets in the Back Bay. / NICOLAUS CZARNECKI, METRO

The suspect

The women generally described the suspect as a white man in his 20s or 30s and between 5 feet 7 inches and 5 feet 10 inches tall. He weighed about 175 pounds, and he was wearing a tan construction-type jacket.

- A woman in one of the attacks said the man was wearing a blue hoodie, possibly with a Red Sox logo on it.

MICHAEL NAUGHTON
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Distracted driver. School bus driver accused of texting behind the wheel

A Boston Public Schools bus driver is under fire for allegedly texting while driving as he transported children during the Tuesday morning commute.

A BPS spokesman told the Boston Herald the driver was transporting students to the Tobin School, in Roxbury, and that he has been removed from service pending the outcome of the investigation.

A witness said the driver allegedly used his phone at a traffic intersection. METRO

T crime

Blue Line attacker sought

Transit police want the public's help finding a man who allegedly assaulted a Blue Line passenger at Revere Beach Station on Sept. 17. The attack allegedly followed a verbal altercation at Maverick Station. A photo of the suspect is on Tpdnews411.com. METRO

Genius grants. Three local professors named MacArthur fellows

Three local professors were among the 24 people who were named fellows this week by the MacArthur Foundation.

Fellows are given a $625,000 no-strings-attached stipend over five years to allow them "to follow their own creative vision."

Boston College professor Robin Fleming, a medieval historian, and MIT professors Dina Katabi, a computer scientist, and Sara Seager, an astrophysicist, were named as fellows. METRO

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Party's over

Cops break up large, loud parties on Mission Hill

Scores of college-aged people were sent home by police who broke up multiple late-night parties in the Mission Hill neighborhood last weekend.

Boston police report that officers, along with officials from Northeastern University, broke up five parties early Saturday morning because of noise violations.

A party was busted at this Mission Hill home. / NICOLAUS CZARNECKI, METRO

Officers responded to the parties between about midnight and 2 a.m., police said.

At one party on Alleghany Street, officers found 20 people standing on the back deck consuming what appeared to be alcoholic beverages.

When police entered the home they found about 70 people attending the party. Officers told the partiers to go home and were unable to find the tenants.

At the other incidents, the tenants were summonsed to court for various charges, including being a minor in possession of alcohol and drinking in public.

MICHAEL NAUGHTON

Dustin Rennells teaches "Southern Cooking for the Northern Home" at the Boston Center for Adult Education, where "Man Code" classes are also being offered. / NICOLAUS CZARNECKI, METRO

Guys getting schooled in 'Man Code'

Man up. A series of adult classes is aimed at the modern man.

Boston men who are in need of a crash course on how to be a well-rounded guy are picking up tips at the Boston Center for Adult Education.

The "Man Code Series," which runs through October, teaches Boston men the brut basics, like cutting and lighting a cigar, how to use sharp tools in the kitchen and how to dress like a gentleman.

The aim of the series, according to the BCAE, is to offer a variety of classes targeting the modern man motivated toward self-improvement.

Classes this month included "Basic Kitchen and Knife Skills," "Stogies: Learning the Basics of Cigars" and "Best of Oktoberfest: German Beers."

"Today, there is a strong focus on being well-rounded and cultured," said Andrew Castronovo, BCAE program manager, who said the classes were selected based on polling and what the BCAE's education department felt was missing from its catalogue.

When asked if he thought men in Boston need a little fine tuning, Castronovo couldn't answer definitively.

"The short answer by the strict definition of fine tuning is 'yes,'" said Castronovo. "However, this could be misconstrued as saying men in Boston don't stack up. This couldn't be farther from the case. Everyone with goals who strives to better themselves — men and women — is always trying to improve, and we provide that opportunity to continuously evolve."

MORGAN ROUSSEAU
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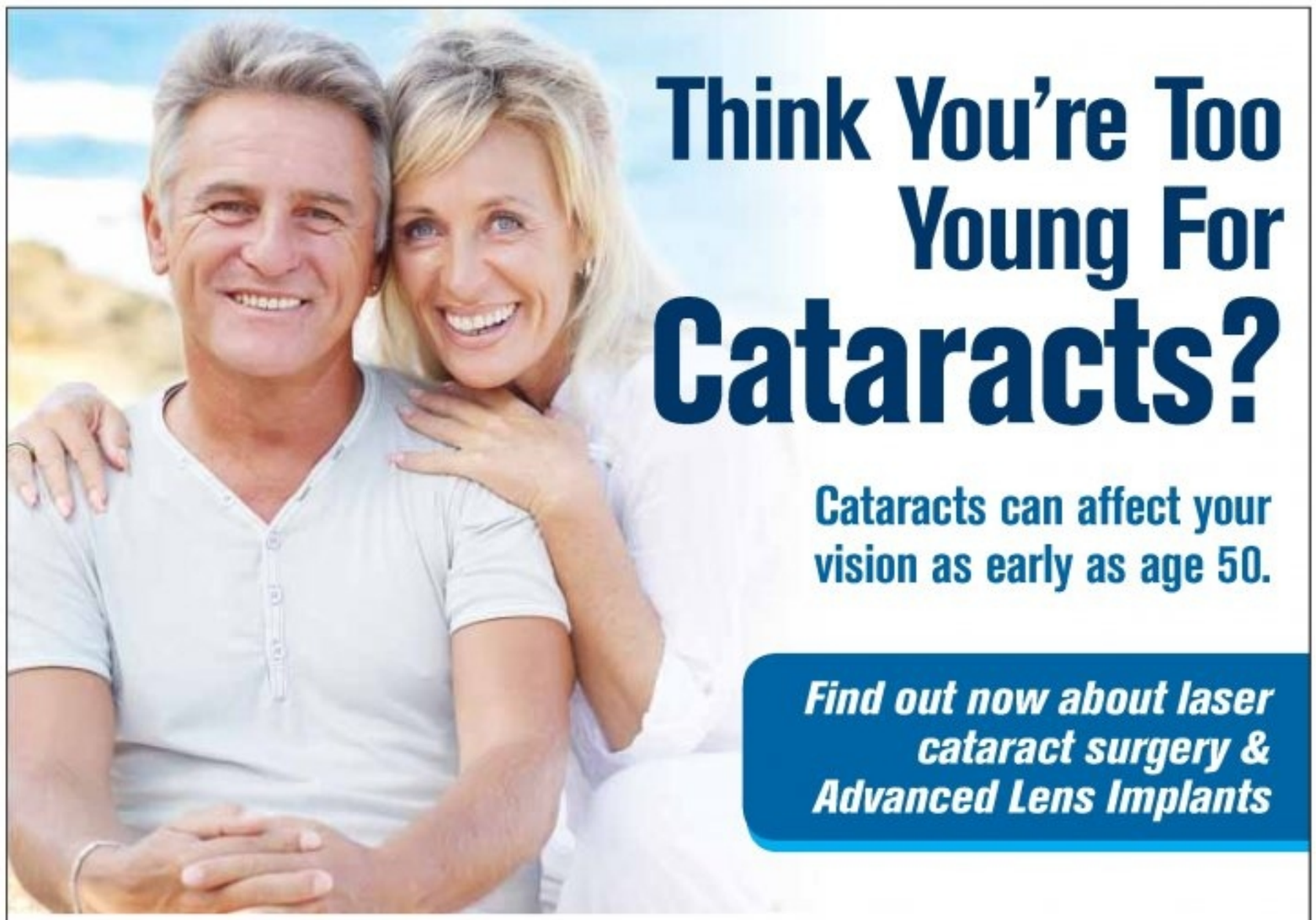
Coming up

- **Tonight:** "A Man, A Pan, & A Plan" teaches cooking skills and recipes.
- **Oct. 2:** "Boston Men's Style Clinic: Dress for Success" schools guys on creating the most versatile closet for any occasion.
- **Oct. 2-23:** "Group Rock Climbing" offers basics of belaying.
- **Oct. 12:** "Meat Market: Underappreciated Cuts" covers skirt, chuck, flank and hanger steak.
- **Visit** www.bcae.org for pricing.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Poggio Al Lago 2010

Top-Estate Sangiovese
Smooth, succulent and perfect with meaty pasta.
Collezione di Paolo 2012

Juicy Montepulciano
Taste why top critic Parker has called Filippo Baccalaro's red 'a wine to buy by the carload.'
Villa Farnia di Farnese 2011

Beautiful Barbaresco
Fragrant, complex, ageworthy and one of Italy's most sought-after reds.
Fondatore Domizio 2010

Barolo Without the Wait
Enjoy barrel-aged Nebbiolo (grape of Barolo and Barbaresco), made in Alba in a soft, ready-to-drink style.
Pietro Disarti 2011

Silky Super Tuscan
This classic blend of Sangiovese, Cabernet and Merlot is a serious partner for steak.
Saracosa 2010

Handcrafted Primitivo
A chocolaty blockbuster from three-time *Vinitaly* Winemaker of the Year, Angelo Maci.
Pillastro 2010

Cherry-Packed Chianti
Tuscany's most famous red, made at the 1,000-year-old estate of a Tuscan prince.
Principe Strozzi 2012

Big Name 'Super Sicilian'
Southern star Mario Ercolino's spicy, sun-drenched tribute to the Super Tuscan. Saserello 2011

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Salem State locks down campus after double stabbing

Knife assault. An apparently unprovoked attack on a female student put Salem State on high alert yesterday.

Salem State University
FLETCHER6 VIA WIKICOMMONS

A late-morning double stabbing at Salem State University yesterday prompted officials to put the campus on lockdown as police searched for the assailant.

SSU spokeswoman Karen Cady said police were focusing their search on Timothy Wells, 25, of Woburn, who was believed to have fled the area after using a knife to slash a female student's hand on a campus shuttle bus around 11:10 a.m.

A bus driver who rushed to help the woman was slashed in the chest, and later taken to the hospital with a non-life threatening injury. The woman was treated at the scene for what officials described as a "superficial" laceration.

There were no arrests as of press time yesterday, according to Cady, who said police were still engaged in an ongoing investigation.

"The last I knew they were very close to apprehending the suspect, who was believed to be in an area far away from campus," she said.

Cady said that the victim did not know the attacker, and that it was unclear what prompted the assault.

A little more than an hour after the attack, at 12:35 p.m., the university tweeted "SHELTER IN PLACE. Suspect may have returned to campus. Close and lock doors, stay away from windows."

The lockdown was lifted at 2:30 p.m., after officials learned that the suspect was no longer on campus, but all classes were canceled following the assault.

Throughout the lockdown, students took to social media to express concern, while others made light of the situation.

"Crazy day at Salem State today. I hope everybody involved is alright," @Brazjul tweeted.

@JakeFLAC wrote, "The salem state stabber was probs just witch hunting."

The suspect is described as having long reddish-blonde hair, and may be driving a brown 1999 Toyota Camry.

MORGAN ROUSSEAU
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Drug discovery

Cocaine found in bean cans

Massachusetts State Police in Lynn found 7,200 grams of cocaine, worth $1 million, stashed in kidney bean cans on Monday. The discovery came after Swinton Acosta and Elvis Rodriguez, both of New York, were stopped for speeding. METRO

Deadly driving

Driver charged in cyclists' deaths

The unlicensed driver who crashed into a group of bicyclists participating in a charity ride in Hampton, N.H., on Saturday was charged with negligent homicide and second-degree assault. Darieann Hess, 19, is being held on $50,000 bond in the deaths of Elise Bouchard, 52, of Danvers, and 60-year-old Pamela Wells of South Hamilton. METRO

Wheelz wows at Spaulding

Extreme wheelchair stuntman Aaron Fotheringham, also known as "Wheelz," visited children recovering at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital yesterday. Fotheringham, 21, who has Spina Bifida, advised kids to not let rough trials in life get them down. / NICOLAUS CZARNECKI, METRO

Debate over whether Obamacare will prove affordable healthcare for millions of uninsured Americans has intensified in the past few months, as states have announced rates. / GETTY IMAGES

The average monthly cost of Obamacare across the US: $328

Resistance. Obama said the fierce opposition stems from the fear that Americans will embrace the program.

Americans will pay an average premium of $328 monthly for a mid-tier health insurance plan when the Obamacare health exchanges open for enrollment next week — and most will qualify for government subsidies to lower that price, federal government said yesterday.

The figure, based on data for approved insurance plans in 48 states, is the broadest national estimate for the cost of coverage when President Barack Obama's healthcare reform law takes full effect next year. The prices of the new plans are at the heart of a political debate over whether they will be affordable enough to attract millions of uninsured Americans when enrollment begins on Oct. 1.

"Essentially they're saying people will like this thing too much, and then it will be really hard to roll back," Obama said on Tuesday in a conversation about healthcare with former President Bill Clinton. "What we're saying is, just look for yourself. Take a look at it, and you will discover that this is a good deal for you."

A major factor in determining the price was the level of competition among insurance companies, with rates significantly higher in states with fewer players, the Department of Health and Human Services said in its report. **REUTERS**

Sign up

7M

The administration is counting on signing up 7 million Americans, including 2.7 million younger and healthier consumers who are needed to offset the costs of sicker members, in the first full year of reform through the state exchanges.

49 cents

US Postal Service to raise prices

The cash-strapped U.S. Postal Service plans to raise the cost of mailing a letter in the United States by three pennies to 49 cents in January, the agency announced yesterday.

The plan to increase the price of stamps and postal services is expected to raise $2 billion annually and is subject to approval from the Postal Regulatory Commission, it said. **REUTERS**

Today's winner

To enter your submission for the Metro Photo Challenge to win a trip to Ghana, go to **www.metrophotochallenge.com.**

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Three mayors take up fight

Battlefront. The mayors of Boston, Philadelphia and New York City are leading a coalition that is trying to influence the gun control discussion across America.

On April 25, 2006, New York City's Michael Bloomberg and Boston's Thomas Menino were joined by 15 other mayors for a summit at Gracie Mansion in New York City, where they would form Mayors Against Illegal Guns.

The group is a proposed political counterweight to the money and influence of the National Rifle Association, though its founders' motivation went beyond just that.

The year before, Boston recorded a 10-year high in its homicide rate, with a large part of the city's violence stemming from illegal handguns. There was a cost, the mayors reasoned, to continued inaction.

"We were seeing firsthand the impact of illegal guns in our neighborhoods," said James Sullivan, a federal relations officer for Menino. "A lot of it is caused by handguns coming in from out of state. Roughly 60 percent of the crime guns recovered in Boston come from out of state. In New York, it's closer to 85 percent. It's a national problem."

Actually, according to new statistics from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, that number has grown to 90 percent of guns used in crimes in New York City in 2011, up from 85 percent in 2009. The main source of these illegal arms was Virginia with 322 guns, followed by 225 from North Carolina.

"That means, in addition to our tough enforcement efforts inside the five boroughs, we have to pay attention to gun laws outside of the city," Bloomberg said.

This pattern of supply is repeated in cities like Boston and Philadelphia.

Currently, if you buy a gun from a federal firearm licensed dealer, you need to show ID, pass a background check and have the sale recorded. It's up to local and state laws to regulate private sales, a system that currently sees 33 states requiring zero background checks, bills of sale or even ID verification.

This problem is compounded by online sites like Armslist.com and BudsGunShop.com, which offer eBay-like gun auctions around the clock, becoming, in effect, 24/7 gun shows for unlicensed dealers.

With a Pennsylvania congressional bill requiring universal background checks stalled for months, Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter — a member of the mayors coalition — has said one of the most effective things the city can do to keep guns out of criminals' hands is universal background checks. "It's like setting up two different lines at the airport — one where you have to go through security and one where you don't. Which one do you think the criminals are going to choose?" he said.

The checks must be "comprehensive and enforceable," Nutter said. "Background checks are the only systematic way to stop felons, domestic abusers and peo-

By the numbers

33

It's up to local and state laws to regulate private sales, a system that currently sees 33 states requiring zero background checks, bills of sale or even ID verification for such sales.

MAYORS AGAINST ILLEGAL GUNS IS TRYING TO CURB GUN VIOLENCE IN SOME OF AMERICA'S BIGGEST CITIES.
BILLY BECERRA, ILLUSTRATION, METRO

Quoted

"It's like setting up two different lines at the airport — one where you have to go through security and one where you don't. Which do you think the criminals are going to choose?" Nutter

Guns in our cities

Following the trail of our bloody streets

Boston, Philadelphia, New York City: Three different cities with a common problem. Gun violence has destroyed the lives of countless individuals on our streets and wrought devastation across our neighborhoods, searing itself into their fabric.

Today, Metro continues our weeklong look at the impact gun violence has had on those cities in the aftermath of the massacre at the Washington, D.C., Navy Yard. **THE EDITORS**

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to purge cities of guns

ple with severe mental illnesses from buying firearms."

The point remains, however, that no state exists in a vacuum. The lax laws in one state, along with the stymied ability of the federal government to track and control the movement of firearms, allows for the export of untraceable tools of crime.

"We have some challenges in regards to firearms trafficking," remarked Steve Bartholomew, ATF's public affairs officer in Pennsylvania, "like secondary markets online and private sales, when it comes to a gun that ends up in a crime. There may be a paper trail to the original purchaser, but if it's transferred hands four or five times without any documentation, it can hinder the process.

Putting a stop to this flow of unchecked trafficking can be done, as some agencies have proposed. In 2009, the Journal of Urban Health published a study that found in cities where a background check is required for a private handgun sale, there was a 48 percent decline in intrastate illegal gun trafficking and a 64 percent decline in gun exports across state lines, as measured by guns used in crimes.

"The most important thing we need to do is fix our current system for background checks," said Daniel Webster, study author and director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy and Research, at a gun policy summit.

The debate over guns and gun culture in this country is an issue deeply personal to the mayors of all three cities.

"It's my boss," said Sullivan, speaking of Boston's Menino, "who gets the call at night when a 13-year-old is shot or worse. We're talking about a system that needs major improvement."

KIT DILLON
letters@metro.us

Online dangers

Study warns of illegal gun sales

A single website can help people with criminal records buy more than 25,000 illegal guns this year alone, according to a report commissioned by Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

Mayors Against Illegal Guns, co-founded by Bloomberg, made the estimate after a study of Armslist.com, which he called "the Craigslist for national gun sales."

"In the digital age, convicted felons, domestic abusers and other dangerous people who are legally barred from buying guns can do so online with little more than a phone number or email address," Bloomberg said.

Bloomberg's group found that one in 30 of would-be gun buyers posting on Armslist.com committed crimes that should have prohibited them from possessing firearms.

Bloomberg / GETTY IMAGES

"This investigation has just scratched the surface of the Internet's vast illegal gun market — and if nothing is done, that market will continue to grow," Bloomberg said.

The mayor's chief policy advisor, John Feinblatt, who directed the report, said that it is all too easy for criminals to use the Web to buy guns.

In Wisconsin last year, a man gunned down his wife and two of her co-workers before shooting himself, days after a judge issued an order barring him from purchasing firearms.

The man found someone selling a .40-caliber semi-automatic Glock on Armslist, the report states.

Tragedies like that are possible because federal law doesn't require private sellers — online or otherwise — to conduct background checks, Bloomberg said.

A request for comment from Armslist.com was not returned. The website asks users to follow federal and state gun laws and report illegal activity. **ANNA SANDERS**

National tragedy

Washington's failure to strengthen background checks

In the wake of the Sept. 16 gun massacre at the Washington, D.C., Navy Yard, President Barack Obama and some members of Congress are again rattling the war drums about the necessity of stricter gun control laws.

Based on how the federal legislative push went after the shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary, it's unlikely meaningful legislation will pass the gridlocked Congress. Sens. Pat Toomey, R-Pa., and Joe Manchin, D-W. Va., led the effort for gun legislation reform after the massacre at Newtown, Conn., by introducing a bill that would require background checks on private sales of guns. On April 17, that bill, with its modest proposals, died on the U.S. Senate floor. **KIT DILLON**

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2 CULTURE

Twitter feed

We check in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Jim Carrey is totally jazzed, Justin Bieber wants you to know you haven't been talking to his grandparents, Louis Tomlinson is groggy and Rihanna is ... relaxing.

@JimCarrey: It's gonna be an amazing day! You know why? CUZ I DOUBLE FRICKIN' STAMPED IT!

@justinbieber: Any account on twitter isn't actually my Grandparents! They don't have twitter and say they never will

@Louis_Tomlinson: Still not managed to get into the time zone :(feel like a zombie.

@rihanna: 420

GETTY IMAGES

The ghosts of the '80s are calling

No paparazzi were harmed in the taking of this photo. Famed exes Sean Penn and Madonna posed together at the Madonna and Steven Klein secretprojectrevolution party held at the Gagosian Gallery on Tuesday in New York. The party helped launch Art ForFreedom, a global initiative to further freedom of expression. "Freedom of speech. Freedom of choice. Freedom of experience. We live in a world where basic rights are under attack. Madonna and Steven Klein's new film is a hard lens on the dystopian now; a call to join the Revolution of love," read the press notes. You can check out the 17-minute film now on Madonna's YouTube channel.

1 Rihanna is in a Twitter feud with Teyana Taylor

Rihanna is in a Twitter feud with up-and-coming R&B singer Teyana Taylor.

I have to say, I don't totally get why someone like Rihanna would pick on someone like Teyana, aside from the fact that their names rhyme. I have literally only heard of Teyana because Rihanna is making fun of her. Is this all part of some larger plot to make Teyana famous?

TEYANA TAYLOR

GETTY IMAGES

It all started on Sept. 11 when Teyana, who is signed to Kanye West's GOOD label, Instagrammed a video of herself singing Anita Baker's "Caught in the Rapture." Rihanna then Instagrammed a video of her male stylist in a Teyana-esque wig, singing the same song and apparently mocking Teyana, and then it was on.

"Petty is petty and shade is shade, b—knew what the f— she was doing," Teyana tweeted (and later deleted), according to E! Online.

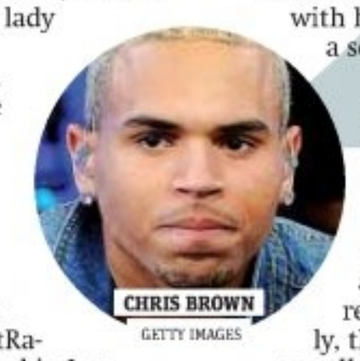
"I REFUSE to help your career…you will NOT get an @ from me! Not til you pay me! #nomorefreepormo" — [yes, Rihanna made a typo on "promo"] — "#iRefuse," Rihanna responded. She even changed her Twitter background to mock financial statements — one showing that Teyana is worth $500,000, the other valuing Rihanna at $90 million.

All of this has now been scrubbed from their Twitter accounts, of course. The tweets are deleted; Rihanna's background image is lipstick again. I am sure that means they're best friends. ***Metro/Melinda Taub***

2 Chris Brown and Drake make up

Make new friends, but keep the old. One is silver, and the other beat up a lady one time.

Chris Brown and Drake have squashed their beef and may even become pals, according to Page Six. The pair apparently met up at the iHeartRadio Music Festival in Las Vegas this weekend, which Drake and his crew attended specifically to catch Brown's performance.



CHRIS BROWN

GETTY IMAGES

"Drake came on Friday with his whole crew," a source said.

The happy reunion continued after the show: "They were backstage hugging and drinking," another source reports. Apparently, the meeting went so well that the pair are talking about collaboration. ***Metro/MT***

3 Is Efron going to be the next Montieth?

An anonymous source recounts in the latest National Enquirer (which, I hate to say it, is usually trustworthy) that they watched the 25-year-old star pass out after a night of abusing prescription painkiller oxycodone as well as alcohol, marijuana and Adderall at New York's Thompson Hotel on Jan. 3. "I was scared for him," the source says. "He was like a junkie. He wanted the drugs so bad. He went through a lot of pills even though it was clear he was entering a danger zone. My worst fear was that he had died from an overdose."

The Enquirer also has "stunning photo proof" from the source. I checked them out and braced for the worst but it just looks like Efron is adorably sleeping, not nearly dying. Still, check yourself before you wreck yourself, Efron. We don't want those abs of yours to flex their way off this mortal coil before they have to.

THE WORD

Dorothy Robinson takes on the world of gossip.

DOROTHY ROBINSON
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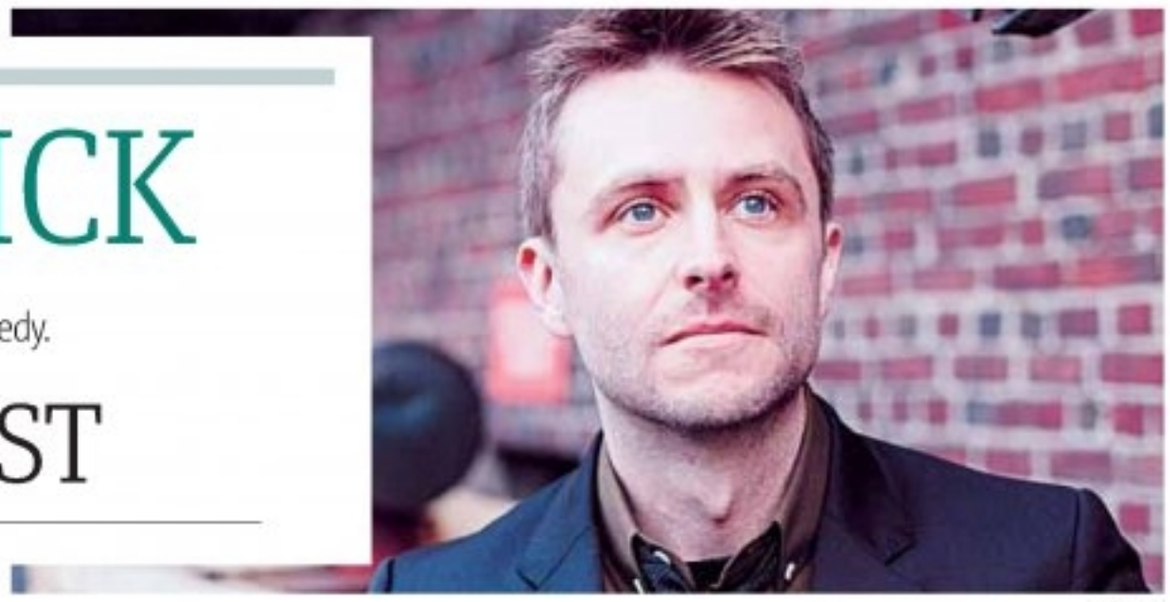
CHRIS HARDWICK

The former "Singled Out" host is the coolest uncool guy in comedy.

THE NERD CULTURIST



PROVIDED

Self-identified nerd Chris Hardwick is now best known for his popular podcast series "The Nerdist," as well as hosting a number of niche programs like AMC's "Talking Dead" TV post-mortem. But the general populace probably knows him best as the snarky co-host of MTV's now-defunct "Singled Out." We chatted up Hardwick before his stand-up gig at the Wilbur tomorrow to talk nerd.

I think it's interesting where you're at, having started on "Singled Out." Did you know then where you'd end up?
Oh no, of course not. When you first start out, you take whatever job is offered to you. When I first started working for MTV ... they brought a stylist in and tried to fix me up — because I was a super nerdy kid and didn't really fit the MTV aesthetic. If you go back and watch "Singled Out" — which I don't recommend that you do — every season I had a completely different wardrobe because they couldn't find a style that made me look cool.

Is there a difference between a nerd and a geek?
No, but a lot of people will tell you differently. I think it's more of a regional vernacular. Like, Wil Wheaton is one of my best friends and he identifies as a geek and I identify as a nerd, but we like the same things. But, I think whichever person you ask, depending on how they identify, they might say that the other is the weaker class. [Laughs]

I feel like being a nerd is actually sort of cool now.
Well, yeah, but listen, there's still a lot of social awkwardness in the nerd community. But that's not the only identifying factor of nerd culture anymore. People have grown up with things that you used to have to seek out, really early adopter-y things that you were either socially ostracized for, or you were first socially ostracized and then you found those things because they were fringe. It's part of our culture now; it's not fringe anymore. [But] I feel like the benefit of the nerd thing is that there are still places that only nerds will tread.

What's the nerdiest thing you're into right now?
[Laughs] Well, I have an insect collection that I really like.

Yeah, that's pretty nerdy.
Oh! My girlfriend got us Kigurumi, which are basically Japanese animal pajamas. Yes, we have worn them together.

ALEXANDRA CAVALLO
alexandra.cavallo@metro.us

Type-cast

Was working with a super-hot babe like Jenny McCarthy intimidating?
The thing is — and no one ever believes me when I say this, but — Jenny wasn't my type of girl. She had like acid wash jeans, big fake boobs, giant bleached hair — and that was never the type of girl that I dated. I think I'm not a typical guy, like, "Hey, sports! Big tits!"

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A parody you won't 'wand' to miss

Review. "Potted Potter" often goes off-script, and is all the funnier for it.

Jeff Turner, left, and Daniel Clarkson work some magic. / PROVIDED

You don't have to be an avid Harry Potter fan to get a kick out of "Potted Potter: The Unauthorized Harry Experience." You do, however, have to be a fan of wry humor, irreverence and snappy improv — all of which this parody has in spades.

"Potted Potter" is a completely no-frills show — and that's the best part about it.

The parody is written by and stars just two men — Daniel Clarkson and Jeff Turner — who attempt to condense the intricate plots of all seven Harry Potter books into a mere 70-minute performance. And watching them try is a trip.

Turner plays the put-upon straight man to Clarkson's irrepressibly kinetic class clown. It's a testament to Turner, who clearly has his own set of finely tuned comedic chops that he lets Clarkson steal every scene.

Clarkson takes on the personas of just about every character but Harry (Turner plays the Boy Who Lived) by throwing on an array of hats and wigs and affecting new voices. (His best is undoubtedly his Ron Weasley, who he plays as a cockney punk who ends every thought with "innit?" a la Ali G.)

It's the aforementioned moments of improv that make this parody the continuously entertaining bit of comedy genius that it is. The play is marked by frequent audience engagement — a mid-show game of Quidditch is a high point — and both men are well-equipped to spike back any comedy barb an audience member lobs at them.

At one point during the opening night performance, the lights came on to reveal Clarkson with Boston cream pie smeared all over his face. Turner was clearly as surprised as the audience — and can't hide it.

"I suppose I could have found a less messy way to express some regional pride," Clarkson said ruefully, wiping his face, while Turner giggled helplessly.

It's the unscripted moments that elevate this from clever parody to an uproariously funny theater experience worth seeing at any age.

If you go

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ALEXANDRA CAVALLO
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The Hookup

AMBER MADISON

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Amber Madison is a Manhattan-based relationship expert and dating coach. She is the author of "Are All Guys Assholes?" for which she traveled the country, spoke to more than 1,000 men and discovered that the answer to this question is no. You can follow her on Twitter@ambermadi.

The point of being in a relationship isn't so that other people don't think you're a loser. I know that may sound a little extreme, but if we're honest, having a Facebook account can come along with a certain amount of pressure to project an image of perfection. We can get so obsessed with showing our social media selves having a good time that we don't live in the moment and actually have a good time as it's happening.

Living in the moment means really experiencing whatever you're doing. At the risk of sounding too crunchy, it means tuning in, taking in what's around you and staying engaged. Ask yourself this: Are you where your feet are? Or are you so busy taking pictures, posting them on social media sites and monitoring the likes and comments that you're not really interacting with the people around you?

Although smartphones enable us to stay in touch in seemingly endless ways, they can also undermine our friendships and relationships. It's not enough to simply have friends; we have to actively engage with each other. It's not uncommon to be around people but still feel alone. That's what happens when we're not really connecting.

Connecting means confiding in our partners when things aren't so great. It means asking real questions about what's going on in their lives. It means making ourselves vulnerable, and having conversations about how we really feel. This all starts with making the commitment to cool it with phone fetish.

Sure, it's nice to be able to look back on fun nights and important events. But when your experiences revolve around taking pictures of them, it's a sign you're not present in what's actually happening. So: Take a few photos when you first meet up, but then put your phone away. It's a mistake to end up with a bunch of images of times that could have been a lot more fun had you actually been focused on the experience at hand.

Are you where your feet are, or where your phone is? / GETTY IMAGES, BANANASTOCK RF

Quoted

"When your experiences revolve around taking pictures, it's a sign you're not present in what's actually happening."

PLUS

Video

Be sad

Comedian Louis C.K. also warns against the perils of smartphones in a video that went viral this week. In it, he says we reach for our phones because we don't want to feel alone or sad. See it at Metro.us and tweet your thoughts to @metronewyork (or just sit with the sadness).

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LIBERTY TO DRINK LIBERALLY

Some of these barrels contain pumpkin-spiced whiskey. Yeah, that's a thing. / PROVIDED

Mike Reppucci and Dave Pickerell aren't afraid to try new things. / PROVIDED

Now that it's officially autumn, it's become almost impossible not to stumble across some pumpkin-spiced monstrosity or other: pumpkin spice doughnuts, pumpkin spice coffee, pumpkin spice toothpaste, probably. Perhaps one of the last products you'd expect to be pumpkin spiced, however, is a whiskey, particularly one from a small, local distiller. But South Kingstown, R.I.'s Sons of Liberty have been pushing the envelope when it comes to whiskeys since they launched about four years ago.

Mike Reppucci founded the distillery with Dave Pickerell, a former Maker's Mark master distiller, after a few years of drinking single malts in London while in business school. "I wondered why there was no great American single malt," he explains. "I always dug bourbon, but I didn't love it."

Their first offering was Uprising Whiskey, which has been available in the Boston market for some time now. A barely-aged whiskey, with light pepper and varied fruit notes, it's a fine option for drinkers looking to branch out into more locally produced spirits. Like most whiskey, it's essentially beer that's been distilled, Reppucci explained. In this case, it's distilled from a stout.

"I always wondered why there was no seasonal contextuality with whiskey," he said.

That's where the idea for last year's launch of the Pumpkin Spice Whiskey, now returning to the market, came from. This year, a second seasonal, a hop-flavored summer whiskey, is available as well. The latter began its life as an IPA, was aged, then hopped, and results in a citrusy, bright sip.

"We're really proud of that one; we felt like it was in balance, and wasn't smacking you in the face with the hops," he says. "It's almost like a genever, but with no juniper berries. The idea was a lighter whiskey, to have the feeling of a summer citrus beer."

He recommends trying it with tonic. "That hop and tonic is sick," he says. "It acts like a barrel-aged gin, adds a great note with citrus on it." Otherwise, you might try it in a Boulevardier-style setup — with Carpano, Campari or Aperol, as he takes it.

It's an intriguing variation, and a much easier concept to swallow, at first, than a pumpkin-spice-flavored whiskey.

For that, they use locally grown pumpkins, roast them and squeeze out the juice, before blending it with the whiskey and adding vanilla, clove, allspice, cinnamon and orange.

Sacrilege, right? "Yeah it's funny; it's been both sides of the spectrum," Reppucci says. "One dude on Twitter wrote, 'These guys need to die.' I was like, 'That's aggressive for whiskey.' People have been fired up, but it's not sugary sweet, and we're using real pumpkins. When we do tastings, whiskey people are like, 'No way, I'm not trying it.' But then they do and they say, 'Dude, that's not bad.'" The reaction overall has been better than you might think, he promises.

Reppucci recommends trying it in a Manhattan with Carpano, or with fresh apple cider. And, while I might not reach for it as an everyday sipping whiskey, it's certainly unique and worth a try — particularly if you prefer your wintery spices with a touch of booze.

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Train Spotting: Downtown Crossing

News dropped last spring that Downtown Crossing's pushcart program, a fixture of the business and shopping sector since time immemorial, is slated for a major overhaul. Following backlash that included a Change.org petition and a public shaming from Mayor Menino, the Boston Business Improvement District allowed the 28 beleaguered vendors to stick it out for the rest of the year. But no one promised that they'd retain their licenses after that. More recently, construction projects have forced the relocation of several mobile shops, which surely makes for a pain in the neck. We asked Craig Caplan, proprietor of Unique Boutique for 20-plus years and president of the Vendor Association, what he makes of all this.

Craig Caplan has his ear to Downtown Crossing's streets. / PROVIDED

Are you hopeful you'll be included in whatever the new pushcart program is?
I mean, they keep talking about a new program. Nobody's explained to me what it's going to be or how it's going to work. So I'm a little bit nervous. I don't know for sure what's going to happen at the end of the year.

If you were in charge, what would you do to improve Downtown?
I think the more activity, the more programming that's out here. ... They've done concerts. They've done the Thursday night block parties. Certainly, the outdoor vending program helps make it a festive atmosphere. More of that year-round will always give people a reason to make this a destination. I think the property owners need to lower a lot of the rents for these empty store spaces to get filled up. The less empty space, the better it will look. But I think that they're doing things right. They just need to keep doing more of that.

As opposed to building more luxury condos?
Y'know, luxury condos are fine. I mean, there's affordable housing here as well. Bringing some of the upper-middle class and upper class down here can't hurt. But if it's all empty and it's not being bought, that's not a good thing.

Name the most and least successful carts you've seen during your time here?
The most successful carts out here would be the food carts. I've seen lines around the block for food. I've never seen that for T-shirts. The least successful cart — and it's very ironic — in the early '90s, somebody came from Seattle and opened a coffee cart selling lattes and things like that. Everyone in Boston just wanted a small regular. "Gimme a small regular." "No, we only have lattes!" Y'know? He went out of business and the coffee craze hit, like, a month after he left. Now everybody drinks that stuff all the time. He was close, but failed miserably. **BARRY THOMPSON**

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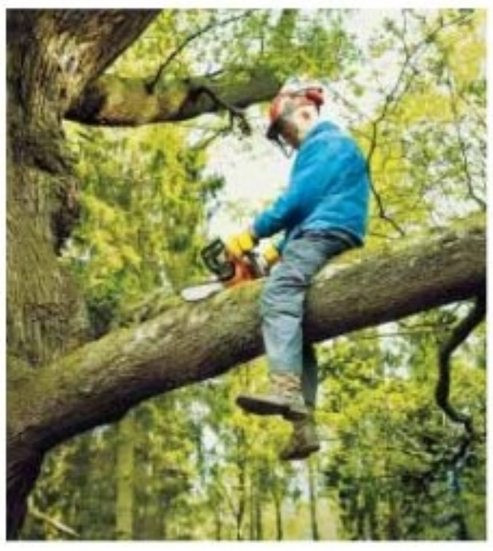

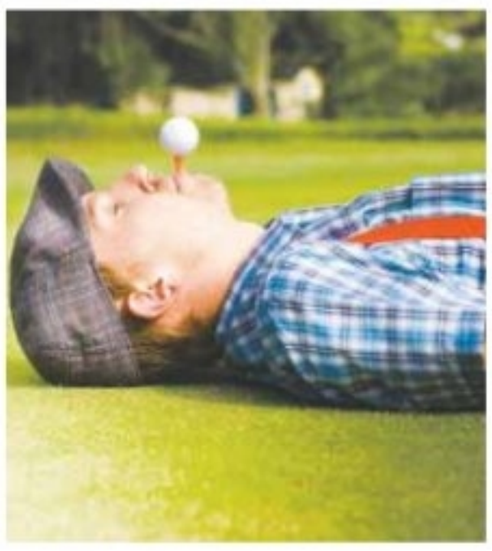

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Queens of the Stone Age
Dec. 13, Agannis Arena

Josh Homme, of Queens of the Stone Age / ERIKA GOLDRING, FILMMAGIC

Best undressed list

You will be able to see Dita Von Teese without any of these things on her body at the House of Blues. / GEORGES ANTONI

Strip-teased. You may get as much Von Teese as you please with Dita's new burlesque show, but the clothes she takes off are every bit as important as the bits she reveals.

Even Dita Von Teese laughs at the irony of her inclusion on Vanity Fair's current International Best Dressed List. After all, the queen of neo burlesque is in the business of undressing. (Her laugh, by the way, is a warm purr and as elegantly inviting as her act.)

"Well, don't forget that Gypsy Rose Lee, who was one of the greatest, if not the greatest burlesque dancer of all time, was famously dressed by Charles James and all the great haute couturiers of the time," says Von Teese. "Striptease is a lot to do with what you put on, as much as what you take off. Without all the glamorous clothes, all you have is a naked pretty girl, and that's not what makes a legend."

Born Heather Sweet in West Branch, Mich., Madame Von Teese has created herself as a legend and a successful business of books, perfume franchises, a capsule dress collection and a lingerie line has followed. But this fall, the hardworking Miss Von Teese is back on the road with her "Burlesque: Strip, Strip Hooray!" show, which includes her Rhinestone Cowgirl, Swarovski Martini Glass and the new Bird of Paradise acts, each destined — and designed — to captivate the imagination.

"Burlesque is about creating fantasy and illusion and something that doesn't really exist in real life," she continues. "It's about combining glamour with a little wink of the eye: a touch of humor. It's about spectacle and a version of glamour and sensuality, and sexuality, that doesn't really exist in real life."

As much as it is spectacle and illusion, burlesque is equal parts choreography and acting: "Who I am onstage is not who I am, even as a sexual person, in real life. It's not to say I put on a different personality; I don't, by any means. The real person comes through in every show. But all the rhinestones and feathers, and perfection to detail in the makeup — obviously, I don't go trotting around like that in my bedroom. Burlesque is different for everyone, especially in these days of the burlesque boom. For me, the way I present it is as something that's otherworldly and about beauty, glamour and humor all put together in one seven-minute moment onstage."

LINDA LABAN
linda.laban@metro.us

If you go

Dita Von Teese's 'Burlesque: Strip, Strip Hooray!'
Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m.
House of Blues
15 Lansdowne St., Boston
$40 -$125, all ages
800-745-3000
www.livenation.com

Also onstage

Young Adults

Tonight, 9
Great Scott
1222 Comm. Ave., Allston
$8, 18+, 800-745-3000
www.ticketmaster.com

This Allston band has remained true to the sound it started with, and it keeps improving. While the central thrust of that sound is firmly rooted in chest-thumping U.S. hardcore, the reverb-soaked atmosphere and jagged guitar work borrow from British post-punk.

Young Adults are at Great Scott tonight. / PROVIDED

Also onstage

Har Mar Superstar

Sept. 29, 8 p.m.
Middle East Downstairs
480 Mass. Ave., Cambridge
$12, 18+, 866-777-8932
www.ticketweb.com

Though he looks like a dumpy, apathetic tech support guy, Har Mar Superstar, the alter ego of musician Sean Tillman, is a sex god in his own mind, apparently unable to resist stripping to his tighty whities by the end of every show. MATTHEW DINARO

Har Mar Superstar songs are smart, catchy R&B numbers and frequently rival those of the artists they parody. / PROVIDED

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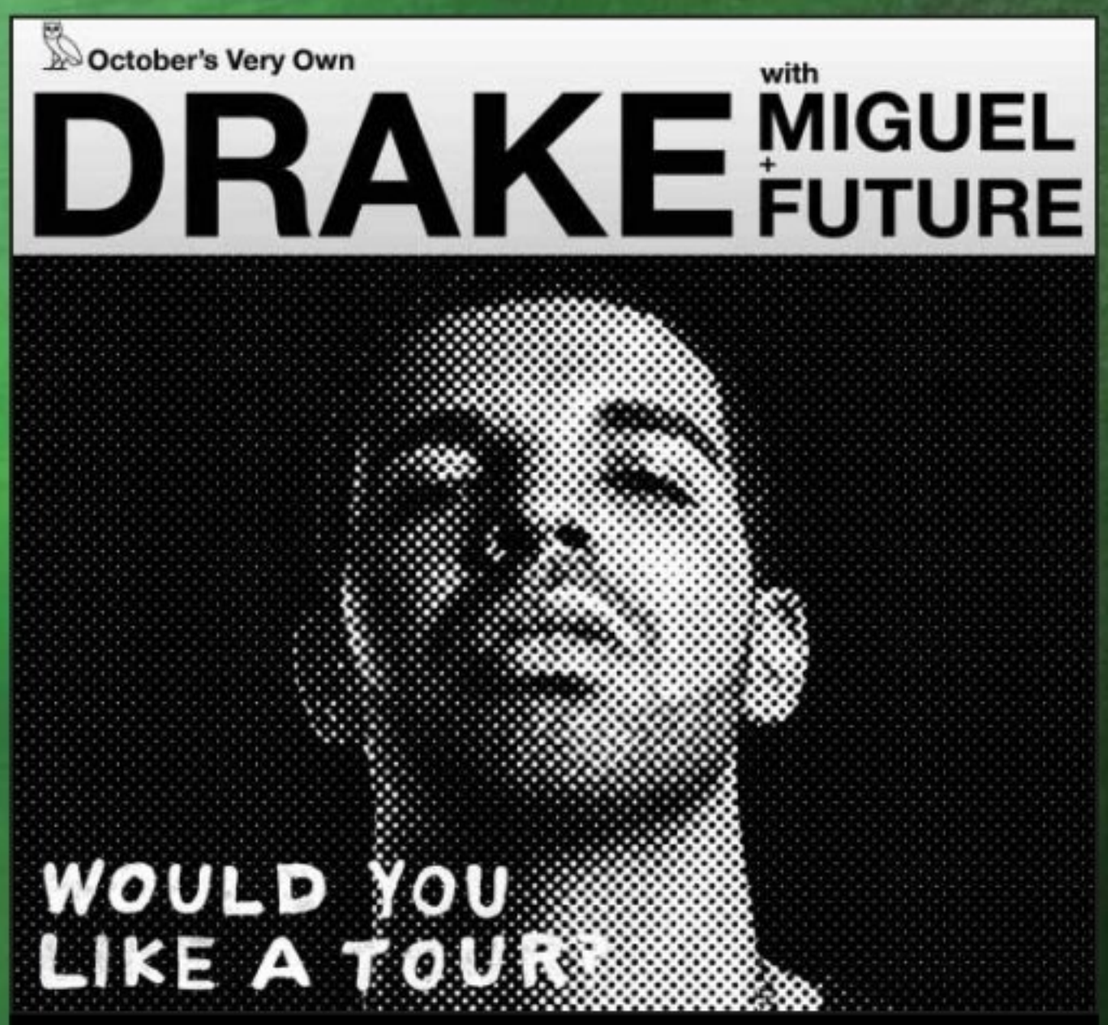

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THEATER

'In Between'

Tonight, 7
Modern Theatre, Suffolk University
525 Washington St., Boston
$10, 800-440-7654
www2.suffolk.edu/moderntheatre
Ibrahim Miari provides a unique perspective on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in this one-man show, inspired by his life as the child of a Muslim mom and a Jewish dad. Tension is apparent from the outset, as it begins with him being questioned by Israeli airport security, and more drama unfolds when he announces his impending marriage to a Jewish woman.

FILM

'Suspicion'

Friday, 9:30 p.m.
Harvard Film Archive
24 Quincy St., Cambridge
$7-$9, 617-496-3211
hcl.harvard.edu/hfa
Alfred Hitchcock's movies often had almost comically literal titles — "Psycho," "The Birds," "Vertigo" — and his 1941 noir "Suspicion" is no exception, since the film centers on a wife's suspicions that her sketchy, Casanova husband is up to no good, leading to an ever more paranoid atmosphere in which even a glass of milk becomes an ominous thing.

What the fluff is going on here? / PROVIDED

COMEDY

'I Am My Mother's Daughter'

Thursdays through Oct. 17
Improv Asylum
216 Hanover St., Boston
$5, 617-263-6887
www.improvasylum.com
Improv Asylum main stage ensemble member Kiley Fitzgerald breaks off from the pack for this solo show, an autobiographical excursion into her Dorchester upbringing and the development of her bird-flipping persona, with plenty of odd anecdotes along the way, such as her harboring a fugitive in the attic — you know, classic American coming-of-age stuff. This might not be entirely improv, but it certainly sounds like she's sticking to the "asylum" portion of the venue's name.

ART

Rick Berry Solo Exhibition

Friday through Oct. 16
Sloane Merrill Gallery
75 Charles St., Boston
Free, 617-227-1775
www.sloanemerrillgallery.com
This exhibition showcases the newest work from local artist Rick Berry, best known for his cover art for such sci-fi/fantasy/horror luminaries as Neil Gaiman, Stephen King and William Gibson. His dark, evocative paintings are fascinated with the human body, but also alienated from it — are these androids, or just humans who, in this technologically soaked era, might as well be androids?

FESTIVAL

What the Fluff? A Tribute to Union Square Invention

Saturday, 3-7 p.m.
Union Square, Somerville
Free, 617-955-0080
www.unionsquaremain.org
About equal parts ironic and totally sincere, this annual festival commemorates the invention and initial production of that strange goop known as Marshmallow Fluff in Somerville's Union Square in the early 20th century. It's an odd legacy, but they're sticking to it. With live music, sticky Fluff-related games and, of course, a smorgasbord of Fluff-centric dishes, it's a sweet time.

MUSIC

Sandeep Das & Bleep Blop

Tonight, 8
David Friend Recital Hall
921 Boylston St., Boston
Free, 617-517-6137
www.bleepblop.com
East meets west, modern meets ancient and electronic meets acoustic at this concert by Bleep Blop Electroacoustic Ensemble, the fruits of a yearlong collaboration with Indian tabla master Sandeep Das. The only other instruments aside from his electronically manipulated tabla will be synthesizer and iPads. Bleep Blop boldy promises this concert will "bring improvisation and technology to a new level."

Immortal Technique/ Brother Ali

Oct. 1, 8 p.m.
The Paradise
967 Comm. Ave., Boston
$20, 800-745-3000
www.ticketmaster.com
This doubleheader brings together two of modern hip-hop's most singular figures. Peruvian-born, Harlem-raised Immortal Technique spits with furious intelligence about the heaviest of socio-political topics, and Brother Ali, a blind, albino Muslim from the Midwest, shares many of the same preoccupations. Both can lean, at times, toward self-righteousness and paranoia, but a fierce love of family and community makes up the difference. MATTHEW DINARO

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Bach's Mass in B Minor Handel and Haydn Society

Friday, 8 p.m.
Sept. 29, 3 p.m.
Symphony Hall
301 Mass. Ave., Boston
Tickets start at $25, 617-266-3605
www.handelandhaydn.org
The Handel and Haydn Society opens its 199th season with Bach's glorious masterwork, the Mass in B Minor, which features a large period orchestra, chorus, soloists, and Harry Christophers at the helm. H&H's acclaimed chorus will dazzle audiences in this extraordinary work by one of the greatest composers of all time.

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OPERA

Mozart: 'La Clemenza di Tito'

Wednesday, Oct. 2, 8 p.m.
NEC's Jordan Hall
290 Huntington Ave.
Free, 617-585-1122
www.necmusic.edu/opera
Writing on commission for a coronation while completing "The Magic Flute," Mozart "spoke truth to power," making benevolence, mercy and wise governance his subject. New England Conservatory's top pre-professional singers and orchestra are conducted by Stephen Lord and directed by Joshua Major.

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WELCOME SOCIAL CLIMBING IN THE FIDI

Say goodbye (for now) to one of Boston's prettiest summer patios. Society on High's palm and plant plotted garden brought an exotic touch of nature to the treeless High Street in the Financial District. However, another kind of oasis is hidden inside Society on High — an urbane bar and restaurant that's both smart and designed to put you at ease. The curved outer wall is lined with comfy banqueted booths, the bar's seating is the perfect height for leaning and there's an alcove space for intimate conversation.

This transformation of what was previously a convenience store is remarkable. The room — all grand marble, black upholstery and giant chandeliers — is warmed by golden, wide-plank pine flooring, and calmed by white subway tile. None of that would mean much at all if the food didn't measure up. But a similar eye for detail advises chef Brian Benton's menu.

The bar menu is a treat: grilled clam flatbread with a hint of thyme and tilapia tacos with perfectly ripe avocado and shredded pickled onion. The main menu — you can order off either, regardless of where you sit — boasts grass-fed beef from Maine, seafood linguine and a fall salad of frisee and arugula topped with duck confit. Tangy grapefruit balances the rich meat.

Perfect for fall's first chill, a comforting chanterelle risotto accompanies pan-roasted halibut with smoked mussels. A seasonal vegetable barley risotto is laced with lima beans, carrot, mushrooms, spinach and shaved Parmesan. The barley has a uniquely chewy texture that is a nice change from rice.

Though delicately portioned, desserts like The Elvis — which combines banana, peanut butter and chocolate into a pretty little gateau — are packed with huge hits of flavor, something that sums up Benton's succinct, yet voluptuously detailed menu.

If you go

Society on High

99 High St., Boston
Entrees: $24-$44
857-350-4555
www.societyboston.com

Oysters come with an apple cider mignonette cocktail. / DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

Barley cooked risotto-style is a pleasant deviation. / DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

NOSH ON LINDA LABAN
letters@metro.us

When to go

When to go

Like much of the Financial District, Society on High closes on Sundays and it is only open for dinner on Saturdays. Weekdays, though, Society on High opens late morning and closes late at night.

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Horoscope

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22.
If you take on additional responsibilities, you will come through with flying colors. Accept the inevitable.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21.
Share your thoughts with the people who count. Get involved in something that will bring you a greater awareness of your community and beliefs.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21.
Seek out the kind of entertainment that gives you a thrill or gets you thinking about a new adventure to pursue. If you make alterations to the way you live, you'll see an improvement in your work life as well.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan 20.
Judge quietly what is going on around you. Step in and make whatever slight changes are necessary to prevent an error. Avoid a conflict that has the potential to stifle your productivity.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb 18.
When it comes to a business or partnership situation, negotiate a deal you can live with. Nothing is perfect, but at least you'll get a fair deal if you act diligently.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20.
Your home is your castle, and the more you put into your place and your family, the more you will get back. Make changes that please everyone.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20.
You'll have to be innovative in the way you respond to others if you want to get things accomplished. Diplomacy will help you reach your objective.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21.
Take note of what others do, and you'll discover how to avoid a mistake that could lead to injury or insult. Focus on love, not anger and sorrow.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20.
Take on extra work if it can help you show your expertise and superiority. Display your knowledge and push for a change that will make your world a better place.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22.
Look at the big picture and diversify as much as possible to get the most out of your assets. Networking will pay off personally as well as professionally.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22.
Ask first when it comes to a big decision at work. If you don't, you will run into opposition that may leave you stranded just when you want to leap into action. Clear all obstacles to proceed.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22.
Helping others will be gratifying and valuable down the line. You should go out of your way to help others, because you'll need to call in some favors.

BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Letters

The not-so magnificent seven

Re: 'Guns in our cities' investigative series (Metro, week of Sept. 23) Wait: New York Gov. Cuomo pushed through legislation requiring magazines with no more than seven rounds before finding out whether they actually exist? And his fix for the problem is to allow the purchase of 10-round magazines, but trust New Yorkers to only put seven rounds in them? Seriously? But he wasn't grandstanding when he passed it, right? New Jersey has some of the toughest gun laws in the country, but at least they've been thought out and are enforceable.

BRUCE A. BENNETT, VIA EMAIL

A gun can be a girl's best friend

Re: 'A Girl & Gun "empowers" women shooters' (Metro, Sept. 25) I am for gun ownership and use by responsible citizens. The article was sarcastic toward women who use guns. The woman profiled in the article, Adrienne Nicotera (though she partially is right in getting certain women to stop being squeamish about using guns), is not the right representative of the empowerment of women by making gun use less male-dominated. She did not want one in the house until, ironically, her Army husband forced her to get over it and free herself to be more like a man and use a gun. If women think the gun-industry is "using women" this way, the alternative is criminals making women the most prominent victims when it comes to crime, while women just sit at home and cry their mascara off and complain that they can't look too attractive in public.

LUCY MARTINEZ, VIA EMAIL

letters@metro.us

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

Sudoku: Easy and hard

5		2						3
9		3		8			4	
		8		6	2		9	
	2				4			
		9	6		1	2		
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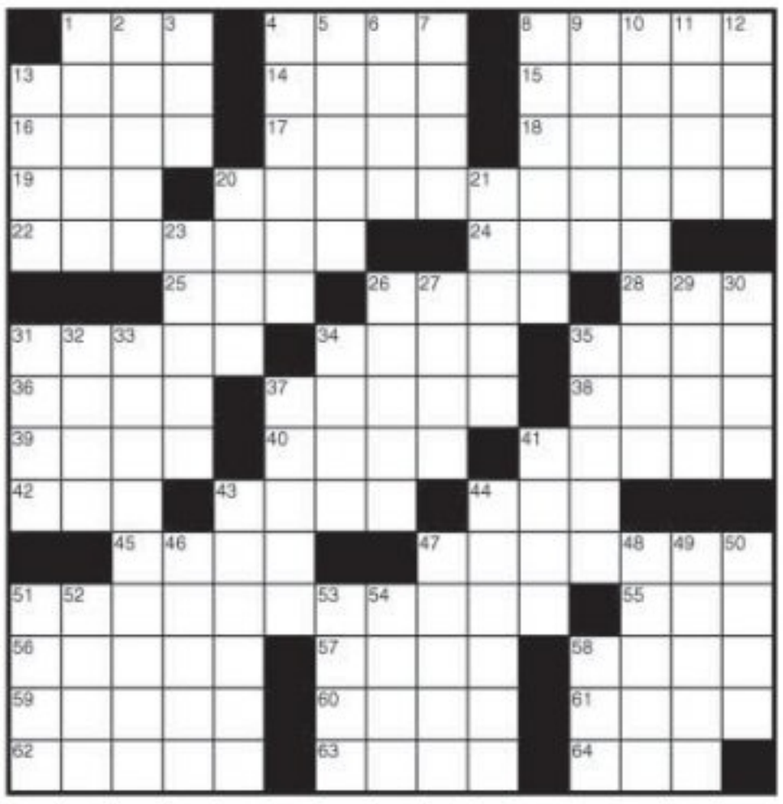
	7		5	2				

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Crossword

Across
1 Beauty pack
4 Neutral shade
8 Hut
13 Jules Verne captain
14 Do pull-ups
15 "Hasta —!"
16 Shepard or Greenspan
17 Hatchet handle
18 Ice structure
19 Big rigs' radios
20 Up, down, charm, or — —
22 Rodeo gear
24 Round tent
25 Funny-peculiar
26 A twist of —
28 Startled cry
31 Amber
34 Claptrap
35 Boundary line
36 Ottoman title
37 Trickles
38 Online journal
39 California's — Woods
40 Tenets
41 Deep fissure
42 Ms. Shriver
43 Tolerates
44 Make tracks
45 Aspirin target
47 Treaty subjects
51 Plant-eating dinosaur
55 Half-star movie
56 Sextant updated
57 S&L offerings
58 Warden's fear
59 Glacial ridge
60 Hockey feint
61 They need a PIN
62 Mannequin
63 Took a good look
64 Scientist's question

Down
1 Kind of toast
2 Amherst sch.
3 Oxford tutor
4 Reverberated
5 Online talks
6 Falling-out
7 A law — itself
8 Exclusive group
9 Be an omen of
10 After the date
11 Frankenstein's assistant
12 Secluded spot
13 Table salt
20 Trunk or torso
21 Joseph Campbell forte
23 Fish finder
26 Bubbles up
27 Is curious
29 They're easily bruised
30 Tavern inventory
31 Pack down
32 Water, in Tijuana
33 Whined softly
34 Second to none
35 Flowed back
37 Mortgages
41 What snobs put on
43 A Barrymore
44 Gave lodging
46 Rock tumbler stone
47 Slow down
48 Dame — Sitwell
49 Wide
50 Bane of Pvts.
51 Close violently
52 Pamplona runner
53 Office assistant
54 Heavy hydrogen discoverer
58 Uncooked



Yesterday's answer

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S	E	A	L		E	N	T	E	R		G	A	T	E

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Sox could get lift with Dempster in bullpen

MLB. Former starter Ryan Dempster has experience as a reliever and could be vital in October.

With the MLB postseason a little more than a week away, the Red Sox seem to be in a very good position, having already clinched the AL East. They have the third-best starters' ERA in the American League, at 3.81, and lead the AL in runs per game, at 5.16. But, as is the case with all teams, there are going to be flaws, and in the case of the Red Sox, they are still searching for a dependable reliever for the seventh and eighth innings.

Brandon Workman was thought to be that guy, but in those innings this year, he has an 8.83 ERA. The same could be said for Drake Britton, especially after beginning his professional career with seven straight scoreless appearances, but he's struggled since, allowing six runs over his next five innings. Junichi Tazawa was dominant early in the year, but has leveled off of late. Besides Craig Breslow (3-0, 0.63 ERA since July 9), the Sox really don't have anyone else to rely on … although that could have changed this past week.

Ryan Dempster is 8-9 this season with a 4.61 ERA. / GETTY IMAGES

Starter Ryan Dempster has been moved to the bullpen for the remainder of the year and could provide some much needed help. The 36-year-old has prior relief experience. He was a closer for the Cubs from 2005 though 2007, totaling 85 saves. As his 8.3 strikeouts per nine innings this season show, he also has the ability to come into games and get a big strikeout if needed. He made his first relief appearance of the season on Sept. 21 against Toronto, throwing a scoreless eighth.

"[I hope to] get as many [appearances] as I possibly can, just to get into different situations, that way I can just get familiar with that again," Dempster said.

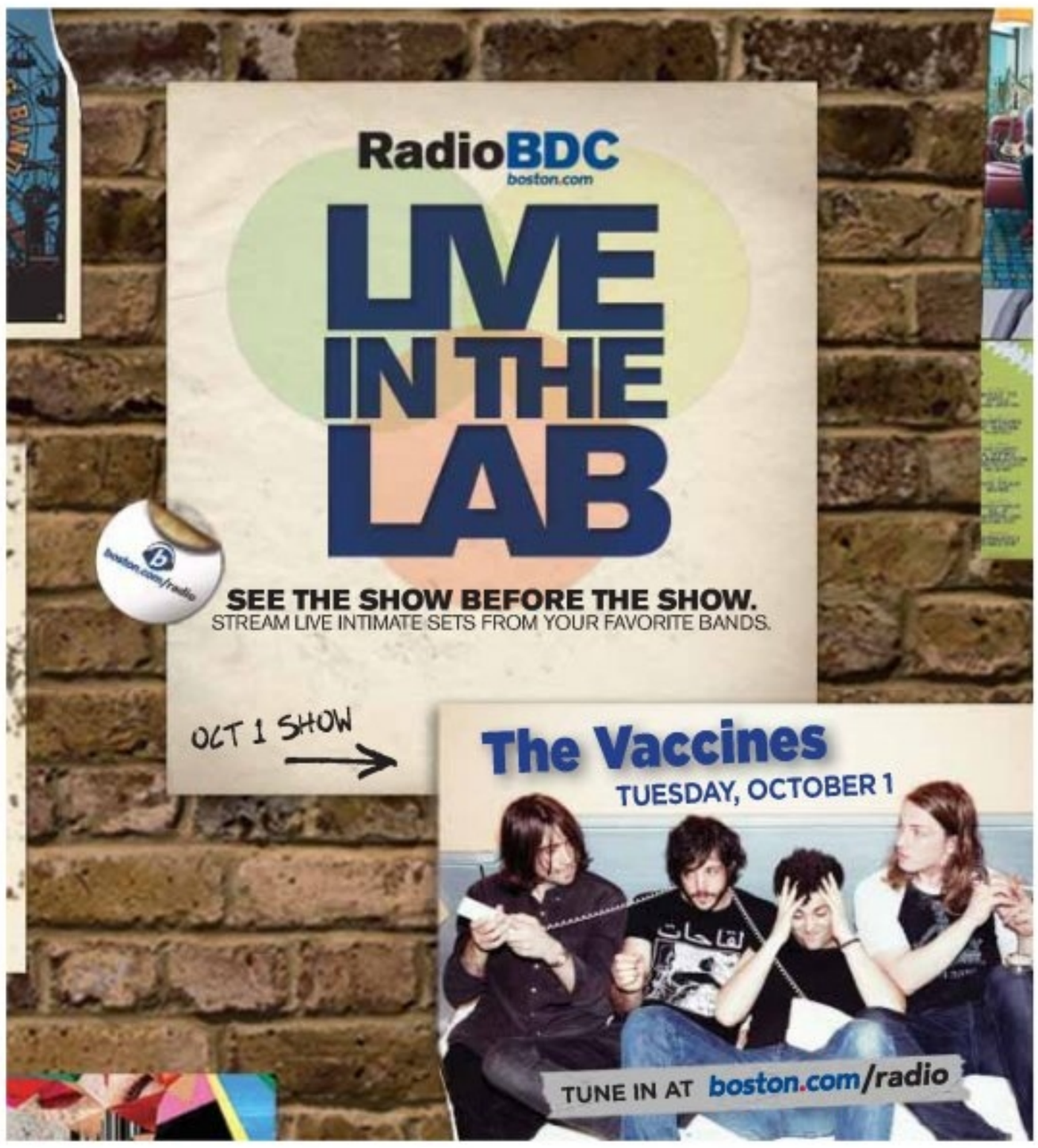
RYAN HANNABLE
sports@metro.us

Jockeying for position

The American League's wild-card game is scheduled for Oct. 2, with the winner taking on the team with the best record in the AL. A look at a few scenarios:

- As of yesterday, the Indians (87-70) would face the Rays (88-69) in the wild-card game, with the winner moving on to face the Red Sox (95-63) in the ALDS.
- If the A's (94-64) were to jump past the Sox for the AL's best record in the next three days, Boston would likely face Detroit (92-66) in the ALDS.
- Texas (86-71) was just one game behind Cleveland for the final wild-card slot as of yesterday.

3 SPORTS



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Though all are welcome, applicants are not required to attend.

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- Public Notice
- COB Liquor License
- Licensing Board
- Notice of Public Hearing
- Divorces
- Care and Protection of Parental Rights
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Notices

Notices

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